

SENATE RECORD VOTE ANALYSIS

104th Congress
1st Session

Vote No. 7

January 10, 1995, 2:46 p.m.
Page S-708 Temp. Record

CONGRESSIONAL ACCOUNTABILITY ACT/Gift Ban Timetable

SUBJECT: Congressional Accountability Act of 1995 . . . S. 2. Dole motion to table the Wellstone amendment No. 9.

ACTION: MOTION TO TABLE AGREED TO, 55-44

SYNOPSIS: Pertinent votes on this legislation include Nos. 2-6, 8-11, and 13-14.

As introduced, S. 2, the Congressional Accountability Act of 1995, will extend 11 civil rights and labor laws to the Senate, the House of Representatives, and the instrumentalities of Congress.

The Wellstone amendment would express the sense of the Senate "that the Senate should consider comprehensive gift ban legislation no later than May 31, 1995."

During debate, Senator Dole moved to table the Wellstone amendment. The motion to table is not debatable; however, some debate preceded the making of the motion. Generally, those favoring the motion to table opposed the amendment; those opposing the motion to table favored the amendment.

Those favoring the motion to table contended:

A couple of days ago the Senate tabled a Wellstone amendment to this bill on the subject of banning gifts to Senators. That amendment contained provisions from a gift ban bill from the last Congress. The Senators who supported it knew full well that this Congress may have different ideas on how to write the ban, and, more importantly, they knew full well that offering it to this bill may well slow its enactment. Nevertheless, they offered the amendment, knowing that it would be unacceptable to most Senators and tabled. When the amendment was tabled, the Majority Leader gave his word that the issue would be addressed early on in this Congress. Perhaps the Majority Leader's word is not good enough for some Senators, because now a second Wellstone amendment has been offered that would set a timetable for the consideration of the gift ban issue. The amendment is insulting, plus it inappropriately attempts to dictate the schedule. We take the Majority Leader at his word, and thus urge our colleagues to join us in tabling this second Wellstone amendment on the subject of a gift ban.

(See other side)

YEAS (55)			NAYS (44)			NOT VOTING (1)	
Republicans (52 or 98%)	Democrats (3 or 7%)		Republicans (1 or 2%)	Democrats (43 or 93%)		Republicans (0)	Democrats (1)
Ashcroft	Inhofe	Dorgan	Abraham	Akaka	Hollings		Rockefeller- ²
Bennett	Jeffords	Heflin		Baucus	Inouye		
Bond	Kassebaum	Lieberman		Biden	Johnston		
Brown	Kempthorne			Bingaman	Kennedy		
Burns	Kyl			Boxer	Kerrey		
Chafee	Lott			Bradley	Kerry		
Coats	Lugar			Breaux	Kohl		
Cochran	Mack			Bryan	Lautenberg		
Cohen	McCain			Bumpers	Leahy		
Coverdell	McConnell			Byrd	Levin		
Craig	Murkowski			Campbell	Mikulski		
D'Amato	Nickles			Conrad	Moseley-Braun		
DeWine	Packwood			Daschle	Moynihan		
Dole	Pressler			Dodd	Murray		
Domenici	Roth			Exon	Nunn		
Faircloth	Santorum			Feingold	Pell		
Frist	Shelby			Feinstein	Pryor		
Gorton	Simpson			Ford	Reid		
Gramm	Smith			Glenn	Robb		
Grams	Snowe			Graham	Sarbanes		
Grassley	Specter			Harkin	Simon		
Gregg	Stevens				Wellstone		
Hatch	Thomas						
Hatfield	Thompson						
Helms	Thurmond						
Hutchison	Warner						

EXPLANATION OF ABSENCE:

- 1—Official Business
- 2—Necessarily Absent
- 3—Illness
- 4—Other

SYMBOLS:

- AY—Announced Yea
- AN—Announced Nay
- PY—Paired Yea
- PN—Paired Nay

Those opposing the motion to table contended:

An earlier amendment to S. 2 on the subject of a gift ban was tabled for two reasons: first, because Senators said it would delay passage of the bill; and second, because they said they would like the opportunity to refine the language of the amendment. The Majority Leader then stated he intended to hold new hearings and act quickly on the subject, and stated that any ban that is enacted would not take effect until after May in any event. We were delighted by these assurances, and have accordingly offered this amendment. This second Wellstone amendment on a gift ban would not dictate the provisions of any proposed ban--instead, it would merely express the sense of the Senate in favor of enacting a ban by May 31 of this year. This amendment is in full accordance with the expressed wishes of the Majority Leader. Unfortunately, and mistakenly, he has interpreted our intent in offering this amendment to be to pressure him to consider this issue soon, because he believes we doubt he will keep his promise. However, our true intent is merely to put the Senate on record as supporting his intent to pass a gift ban bill quickly. On this basis, we urge our colleagues to vote against the motion to table.